

Did You Know?

If a parent reports Native American heritage, but is unable to name a specific tribe, the department must send a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to document diligent efforts to identify the specific tribe. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will complete a search and provide the results in writing to the Department of Community Based Services to determine the next steps.

When the BIA is able to link the family or parent to a specific tribe, DCBS is required under the Indian Child Welfare Act to notify the tribe in writing of the child's status in out of home care and provide court information. Sample letters are available on the manuals website to provide guidance.

Workers should consult with the tribe regarding placements preferences when a child is identified as Native American. DCBS is required to document that "Active Efforts" have been provided to reunify children with their parents. Continued ongoing consultation is required until the child achieves permanency.

Workers can utilize the Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance Desk Aid on the link below for additional information about ICWA requirements.

[Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance Desk Aid.doc](#)

"Did You Know?" is brought to you weekly from the Coordinating Services for Children Workgroup.
If you would like more information, please contact the OOHC Branch by calling (502)-564-2147

